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Victoria Newton
Executive Secretary
Executive Council
State Capitol
LOCAL

Re: Retention of Special Counsel

Dear Victoria:

Our office requests authorization pursuant to Iowa Code section 13.7 to retain special counsel to provide specialized legal services to University of Iowa Health Care (UIHC) with respect to claims, suits and other proceedings related to the provision of health care services by UIHC employees.

Effective July 1, 2020, the Iowa Department of Justice (the Department), the Iowa Board of Regents (BOR), and UIHC entered into a Limited Self-insurance and 28E Agreement to establish a mutually beneficial framework for the defense and resolution of tort claims and suits arising from the provision of health care services by UIHC employees. As part of this Agreement, UIHC has agreed to be responsible for the costs of defense for claims covered by the Agreement. The Department lacks the specialized resources to continue to provide these legal services. UIHC also requires counsel to represent its employees in proceedings related to professional regulatory matters. To provide these legal services, UIHC has recommended the law firm Phelan Tucker Law, LLP, 321 East Market Street, P.O. Box 2150, Iowa City, Iowa 52241 (Phelan Tucker). The lead attorney will be Dick Tucker. Fees will be in accordance with a separate engagement letter and fee schedule between UIHC and Phelan Tucker. Fees and costs will be paid directly by UIHC.

Accordingly, our office recommends the Phelan Tucker be approved as Special Counsel.

Sincerely,



JEFFREY S. THOMPSON
Solicitor General